

2018

The Power of Du'a

Importance of du'a for spiritual, emotional and physical well-being
Ustadha Umm Jamaal ud-Din

THE POWER OF DU'A

USTADHA UMM JAMAAL UD-DIN

The topic I've chosen to speak about today is the power of ad-du'a. And **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ** I am going to look at this topic from an aspect that many of you may not have thought about before – which is how connecting to Allah and making du'a to Him is so important for our spiritual, emotional and physical well-being.

When we think about du'a, the main thing we all tend to focus on is the material outcome of our du'a, and whether we see our du'a being answered or not. But what most people don't realize, is that the benefits that can be gained from simply making du'a, upon your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being can often far outweigh the actual receiving of that thing that you've been making du'a for.

So that's why today what I want to **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ** share with you are firstly some of the spiritual and emotional benefits of making du'a, then secondly, the importance of making du'a whenever we are suffering from any type of physical ailment, and then lastly, I'll be having a quick look at the secret to making a powerful du'a.

1. SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL BENEFITS OF MAKING DU'A

Closeness to Allah: So first of all, one of the most powerful effects of making du'a, is the closeness that you feel to Allah each time that you sincerely make du'a to Him. Allah says,

﴿وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ﴾

And when My servants ask you [O Muhammad] concerning me - indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the suppliant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided. (Surah al-Baqarah 2:186)

You are not alone: No matter what you are going through, when you make du'a and you talk to Allah, when you pour out your problems to Him, you instantly get that feeling that you are not alone. You instantly get that feeling that you no longer need to bear this problem or this hardship on your own.

Knowing Allah: Because you know that Allah is As-Sami'. You know that Allah is al-Mujeeb li ad-Da'waat (the One who responds to every du'a). He hears your voice and He is responding to your du'a. And you know that Allah is 'Aleemun bi zat as-Sudoor (He knows all that is contained within the chests). So He knows all of the sadness, all of the worries trapped in your heart.

Peace and comfort to the heart: And just feeling that closeness to Allah, and how much He cares for you brings you the greatest sense of peace and comfort to your heart. This is why I am saying that even if you are not seeing the material results of that du'a that you are making yet, there are so many other benefits that you

are getting out of making that du'a, because of how much comfort and peace it is bringing to your heart and mind and soul.

Allah is taking care of your affairs, no need to carry burdens alone: You've asked Allah and you know that Allah is taking care of all of your affairs. And you've unloaded all of your problems and burdens to Allah. And you've realized that you no longer have to carry those burdens on your own.

Relieve and release negative emotions: If you think about Ya'qoob عليه السلام, imagine how tormented his soul must have felt, losing his most precious and beloved son Yousuf عليه السلام. All those years of not knowing where he was. But you see how he offloads all of those negative emotions, those toxic feelings and he calls out to Allah in his beautiful, most heartfelt du'a.

﴿قَالَ إِنَّمَا أَشْكُو بَثِّي وَحُزْنِي إِلَى اللَّهِ وَأَعْلَمُ مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ﴾

He said, "Verily I only complain of my grief and sadness to Allah. (Surah Yusuf 12:86)

This is how, when you turn to du'a, it is a means to relieve all of those negative feelings of anxiety about the future. Because you put your trust in Al-Hayy al-Qayyum, the Ever-Living, the Ever-Sustaining, the One who is in control of all of your affairs, and you've turned to Him in your du'a.

Healing effect: And it is a means for you to let go of all the sadness and pain in your past. Because you've turned to Allah and you've emptied out of all those sorrows and negative feelings and pain that were trapped in your heart in your du'a to Him. So this is how du'a, when we call upon Allah with yaqeen, it can have such a powerful healing effect upon any feelings of stress or anxiety or depression that we might be experiencing.

High levels of inner peace: And so it is through fully utilizing this gift that Allah has given us of making du'a to Him, that we can achieve high levels of inner peace of mind, body and soul إن شاء الله.

2. IMPORTANCE OF MAKING DU'A WHEN WE ARE SUFFERING FROM ANY PHYSICAL AILMENT

One of the mistakes we all make when we fall sick or suffer from any physical ailment like a headache, is we fall straight to the material means in seeking a cure. We run to the doctor, we go straight for the medicine, but we neglect taking the spiritual means that Allah has given us of making du'a to Him. And سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ we don't realize that this is a type of deficiency in our tawheed and our having tawakkul upon Allah وَتَعَالَى سُبْحَانَهُ and reliance upon Him.

Medicine with tawakkul: One of the most important things we need to realize when we take any type of medicine, is that as long as a medicine is halal, it is permissible for us to take it. And it doesn't negate having tawakkul on Allah وَتَعَالَى سُبْحَانَهُ. As long as you are only taking that means while your heart is fully trusting in

Allah who is the Controller of the effectiveness of that means. But the problem is that many of us tend to take that means, we take that medicine, and in reality, we let our hearts become attached to that means. So we believe that it is the medicine or the doctor that can cure us instead of fully depending on Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَ تَعَالَى** and placing our trust and tawakkul in Allah, fully depending on Him.

In reality, He is the only One who can cure you. And it is only by His permission that medicine or that doctor will be of any benefit to you. So that's why if you want to have a powerful connection with Allah, if we want to reach a higher level in our tawheed and tawakkul in Allah, then we need to focus on making sure that we make du'a for ourselves and our loved ones whenever we fall sick, instead of only resorting to the material means for the cure.

Ruqyah: And that is why we should fully utilize things like making ar-ruqyah. A lot of people think that ar-ruqyah is only protecting or curing yourself from the evil eye. And they don't realize that it is actually sunnah to make ruqyah for yourself even if you are suffering from any type of physical illness.

One of the greatest examples of this, is when our beloved Prophet ﷺ was on his deathbed, and Aishah رضي الله عنها tells us how the Prophet ﷺ was reciting al-Muawidhat, which is the last three surahs of the Quran, Surah al-Ikhlās, Surah al-Falaq and Surah an-Naas. And so he would recite these three suwar and then blow them into his hands and then wipe them over himself. And when he became too weak and sick to do that for himself, then Aishah رضي الله عنها used to recite those suwar for him, and then she would use his blessed hands to wipe all over him.

And you may also have heard the story which is in al-Bukhari when one of the sahabah recited Surah al-Fatihah for a man who was stung by a scorpion. So Surah al-Fatihah also can be used as a ruqyah if you are suffering from any type of physical ailment.

Besides these, there are also **authentic ad'iyah that we can say from the sunnah**. And one of these du'as that we can say is a du'a for ash-shifa, which the Prophet ﷺ used to say,

اللهم رب الناس، مذهب البأس، اشف أنت الشافي، لا شافي إلا أنت، شفاء لا يغادر سقماً

Allahumma rabbannas azhib al ba's washfi anta ash-shafi la shifa illa shifaa'uk shifaa la yughadiru saqama.

O Allah, Lord of mankind, remove the affliction, bring the cure, for You are the One who cures, there is no cure except Your cure, a cure after which no illness remains.

And if you are suffering any pain in your body such as a headache, the Prophet ﷺ taught us to place our hand on the place of the pain and to say three times,

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

Bismillah, bismillah, bismillah.

And to say 7 times,

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ وَقُدْرَتِهِ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا أَجِدُ وَأُحَازِرُ

audhu billahi wa qudratibi min sharri ma ajidu wa uhadhir.

I seek refuge with Allah and His power from the evil of what I feel and of which I am wary of.

3. SECRET TO MAKING A POWERFUL DU'A

Presence of heart: Whether you are making du'a or making ruqyah for yourself, one of the most important components of having your du'a accepted, is your own internal attitude. Shaykh Ibn al-Qayyim رحمه الله, he said du'a is like a weapon. But it is only as effective as the person who is wielding that weapon. So that is why, it is very important that you focus on your presence of heart when making du'a. Focus on pouring out your heart into du'a, and having yaqeen in Allah that He is going to respond to your du'a.

Don't focus on our deficiency, focus on Allah's greatness: Sometimes we might hesitate to make du'a. We might think that we're not good enough for Allah to answer us. Or maybe we've fallen into a lot of sins, or maybe we have a feeling of low self-worth that makes us feel there is no use asking Allah, because we think we are not good enough for Him to answer us. So it is very important that we stop over-focusing on deficiency of ourselves, and rather we focus on the greatness and generosity of Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى.

Think about the beautiful names of Allah تَعَالَى سُبْحَانَهُ, such as al-Jawwad, the One who is the most generous, the One who loves to give, who gives even without being asked. Ar-Rahman, the One who is full of mercy. Ar-Raheem, the Most Merciful.

The Prophet ﷺ tells us in an authentic hadith,

إِنَّ اللَّهَ حَيُّ كَرِيمٌ يَسْتَحْيِي إِذَا رَفَعَ الرَّجُلُ إِلَيْهِ يَدَيْهِ أَنْ يَرُدَّهُمَا صِفْرًا خَائِبَتَيْنِ

Verily your Lord is Generous and Shy. If His servant raises his hands to Him in du'a. He becomes shy to return them empty.

Nothing is too great, nothing too trivial for Allah: So never feel that what you are asking is too great to ask from Allah because nothing is too great for Allah. Never think that what you are asking is too worthless to ask Him, because nothing is too trivial or too small to ask from Allah ﷻ. Aishah رضي الله عنها tells us, ask Allah even if it is just for your shoelace that became broken or untied.

We need to realize that Allah loves us to ask from Him. He loves us to ask from Him and He loves to give: He never gets tired from us asking from Him, unlike the creation of Allah, they quickly get tired when asked for something. Because we have to remember that Allah loves to give and He loves to be asked to give from His bounty.

Call Allah with His names: So call upon Allah sincerely with your du'a. Call upon Allah with His beautiful names and His attributes - ya Rahman, ya Raheem, ya Kareem.

Hope from Allah alone: Empty out your heart from having hopes from anyone else, and fill it with having hope only in Allah alone.

Poverty in front of Allah: And also realize your poorness and brokenness before Allah. And realize the only way out from your trial, the only way out from your sickness, the only way out to find your light in the darkness is through Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَ تَعَالَى**. The secret to having your du'a accepted is showing to Allah your absolute need and your absolute poverty to Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَ تَعَالَى**.

This is why the Prophet ﷺ tells us that if anyone makes the same du'a that Yunus **عليه السلام** made when he was in the stomach of the whale, that Allah will answer their du'a. And if they are in a type of distress, Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَ تَعَالَى** will take them out of that distress by the virtue of du'a. When he said

﴿لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ﴾

La ilaha illa ant subhanaka inni kuntu min az-zalimeen.

Why is this du'a so powerful? Because first of all, he mentions tawheed, he mentions tawheed of **لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ**, then he glorifies Allah, and after that he admits his poorness to Allah.

CONCLUSION

Realize that turning to Allah for all of your needs and making du'a to Him has a powerful effect on your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being. I ask Allah to help us to always be from al-Mutawakkileen, those who do tawakkul upon Allah, in making du'a to Allah for all of our needs, whether big or small. I ask Allah to make all of our du'a a means to heal our pain, a means to remove our sadness and worry, and a means to cure us from every type of sickness that we are suffering from.

And I leave you with the words of Shaykh ibn al-Qayyim **رحمته الله**,

*Therefore, if the pains of this world tire you, do not grieve, for it may be that Allah wishes to hear your voice by way of ad-du'a.
So pour out your desires in prostration and forget about it and know that verily Allah does not forget.*

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoKJlkdrpP8>

